

P-PATCH COMMUNITY GARDENING PROGRAM

2008 PARKS & GREEN SPACES LEVY: P-PATCH INVESTMENT UPDATE

The P-Patch Community Gardening Program is made up of community managed open spaces in Seattle neighborhoods. Gardeners, individually and collectively, use small plots of land to grow organic food, flowers, fruits, and herbs.

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods oversees the program of 85 P-Patch gardens, 2908 plots, and 6780 gardeners. It is the largest municipally-managed community gardening program west of New York City.



Background

When the voters approved the 2008 Parks and Green Spaces Levy, it was the first time funds were set aside to support the acquisition and development of community gardens. The levy provided \$2 million to build four community gardens. But through strong partnerships with neighborhood volunteers, community organizations, city departments, and the leveraging of funds, the P-Patch Program will have completed 22 new or expanded gardens. In 2012, the Levy Oversight Committee recommended the reallocation of \$427,000 in inflationary funds to support additional P-Patch community garden development projects. The funding will support six additional projects to be completed in 2013 and 2014. **Together these projects total 28 new and expanded gardens with approximately 737 new garden plots.**

New P-Patch community garden development focused on 21 neighborhoods that were prioritized based on a set of factors including population density, proximity to existing gardens, length of Interest Lists at nearby gardens, legal requirements of the levy, and access for low-income and immigrant populations. Specific sites were selected with criteria such as size, development difficulty, sun, water access, and ownership.

Literally thousands of volunteers hours helped to make these P-Patches are reality. In addition, Neighborhood Matching Fund awards helped some projects do design work, complete the construction, or include enhancements. City departments worked together to support the construction of new gardens as well—Seattle Parks and Recreation, Seattle City Light, Seattle Public Utilities, Seattle Center, and Seattle Department of Transportation.

New Approaches

The P-Patch Gardening Program creatively expanded the boundaries with new types of projects and developments in unlikely places:

- First large-scale rooftop community garden in the United States—UpGarden P-Patch at Seattle Center
- Parking lots turned into community gardens—Unpaving Paradise at Summit Slope Park
- Large-scale community permaculture projects—Beacon Food Forest
- Gardens dedicated entirely to growing food for donations—Seattle Community Farm at Rainier Vista



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Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

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Parks and Green Spaces Levy P-Patch Community Garden Development

Original Project List	Number of New Garden Plots	Budget*
Beacon Food Forest (2014 completion)	30 estimated + shared permaculture beds	\$100,000
Ferdinand "Maa Nyeilai Ndeic" Expansion (2014 completion)	# TBD	\$42,000
UpGarden at Seattle Center	100 plots	\$150,000
Community Urban Farm	1/3 acre shared "giving garden"	\$60,000
Eastlake Expansion	20 plots	\$11,400
Hazel Heights	19 plots	\$24,500
Leo St.	47 plots	\$66,000
Marra Farm Pilot Market Garden	3 market plots	\$11,500
New Holly Youth and Family Expansion	26 plots	\$60,000
Spring Street	16 plots	\$19,500
Unpaving Paradise (at Summit Slope Park)	37 plots	\$150,000
West Genesee	12 plots	\$11,000
Low Income Housing Gardens 3 projects: a. Nickelsville b. Chancery Place c. Schwabacher House	45 plots	\$21,700
Barton St. (property acquisition and development)	50 plots	\$320,000
Kirke Park	37 plots	\$44,400
Hillman Expansion	16 plots	\$44,000
Bitter Lake	29 plots	\$95,000
John C. Little	35 plots	\$90,000
Magnolia Manor	46 plots	\$65,000
Westcrest	66 plots	\$90,000
Added "Inflation Reserve Funds" Projects		
Horiuchi Park	30 estimated plots	\$50,000
Lifton Springs @ North Seattle Community College	55 estimated plots	\$150,000
Judkins Expansion	5 estimated plots	\$50,000
Broadway Hill (Federal & Republican)	10 estimated plots	\$16,000
Market Garden at Marra Farm - Expansion	3 estimated market plots	\$11,000
Municipal Agriculture Sites	7,000 sf. estimated urban agriculture space	\$63,500
Total	737 plots + shared/market garden spaces	\$1,816,200

* Figures listed represent direct design and construction budgets. Additional budget for these projects totals \$610,500 and includes expense categories such as 1% for arts contribution, multi-lingual/cultural outreach materials and translation services, and staffing.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

P-Patch Community Gardening Program

Seattle Department of Neighborhoods

Phone: (206) 684-0264

Email: p-patch.don@seattle.gov

Web: www.seattle.gov/neighborhoods/ppatch/

